

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SNM-05 DEAE-00 AID-05
OES-07 /106 W

-----095127 191348Z /53

R 190820Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8823
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USUN NEW YORK 610
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1663

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM SNAR LA
SUBJECT: WESTERNERS VISIT PRISON ISLANDS IN NAM NGUM RESERVOIR

REF: VIENTIANE A-19 (31 MARCH 1977)

1. A DELEGATION OF WESTERN EXPERTS INCLUDING A REPRESENTATIVE OF UNFEDAC AND TWO VISITING ILO REPRESENTATIVES TRAVELED TO THE NAM NGUM RESERVOIR "REHABILITATION" ISLAND OF DON THAO ON DECEMBER 18. ON THE ISLAND, LAO AUTHORITIES TOLD THE EXPERTS THAT THERE WERE 1,500 INMATES ON THE NAM NGUM ISLANDS COMPRISING 500 FORMER DRUG ADDICTS, 500 PROSTITUTES, AND 500 DELINQUENTS. THEY ADDED THAT A TOTAL OF 800 PERSONS HAD ALREADY LEFT THE ISLANDS.

2. OFFICIALS SAID THAT 400 OF THE REMAINING POPULATION
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HAD BEEN "REHABILITATED" AND WERE ANXIOUS TO GO TO A WORK SITE HOME RATHER THAN RETURN TO VIENTIANE. OFFICIALS ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT NO WORK SITE WAS READY TO ACCOMMODATE THEM.

3. THE VISITING EXPERTS SAW THIRTY TO FORTY PERSONS SAID TO BE UNDERGOING "REHABILITATION", ALL OF WHOM

APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH. THE LAO OFFICIALS SAID THAT THERE WERE THIRTY-FIVE HMONG TRIBESMEN IN THE INMATE POPULATION.

4. COMMENT: THIS VISIT IS THE FIRST TO THE ISLANDS BY WESTERNERS OF WHICH WE HAVE HEARD FOR MANY MONTHS. THE CENSUS FIGURES PROVIDED ARE OBVIOUSLY APPROXIMATE, BUT GENERALLY REFLECT FIGURES PROVIDED TO EMBOFF DURING FEBRUARY VISIT (REFTEL). DURING THIS FEBRUARY VISIT, LAO AUTHORITIES ALSO CLAIMED A RELEASE FIGURE OF 800 PERSONS (285 WOMEN AND 515 MEN). WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IN FEBRUARY THE OFFICIAL RESIDENT POPULATION WAS GIVEN AS 1715, AND THAT ALTHOUGH THE LAO ADMIT TO NO RELEASES SINCE THEN, THE POPULATION NOW STANDS AT (APPROXIMATELY) 1500.
ROBERTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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